

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 3

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo
(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Ammiano, Atkins, Bonta, Campos,*
Chesbro, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Garcia, Gordon, Gorell,
Roger Hernández, Levine, Medina, Muratsuchi, V. Manuel Pérez,
***Quirk, Rendon, Ting, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada*)**
(Coauthors: Senators *Correa, De León, Lara, Lieu, Padilla, and Yee*)

December 3, 2012

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3—Relative to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 3, as amended, Alejo. Immigration.

This measure would specify ~~tenets~~ *goals* for ~~repairing~~ *the reform of* the nation's immigration system, and would urge Congress and the President of the United States to take a humane and just approach to ~~improving~~ *solving* the nation's *broken* immigration system ~~using those~~ *tenets*.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The United States of America is a nation of values,
- 2 founded on the principles that all men and women are created
- 3 equal, and the promise of freedom for all; and
- 4 WHEREAS, We are a nation of immigrants, who believe in the
- 5 promise of freedom and opportunity; and

1 WHEREAS, The current immigration system is broken,
2 antiquated, and not meeting the challenges of the 21st century. It
3 separates families, including same-sex couple families, creates
4 long backlogs for families seeking reunification, and neglects the
5 hard work and financial contributions immigrants make to our
6 country; and

7 WHEREAS, Since 2008, more than 1.6 million immigrants have
8 been deported, and one in every 10 American children faces the
9 threat of the deportation of a parent; and

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that about 11 million undocumented
11 immigrants are in the United States, and California has the largest
12 population of immigrants, both legal and undocumented; and

13 WHEREAS, Immigrants and their children constitute nearly
14 one-half of California's population and live and work in all 58
15 counties, most notably in the San Diego, Central Valley, Los
16 Angeles, *Ventura*, and greater San Francisco areas; and

17 WHEREAS, Approximately 77 percent of undocumented
18 immigrants who reside in California live with family members
19 who are legal United States residents and citizens; and

20 WHEREAS, One in 10 workers in California is an
21 undocumented immigrant, and immigrants are a vibrant,
22 productive, and vital part of the state's growing economy; and

23 WHEREAS, Immigrants are essential in keeping the American
24 economy strong; from technology programmers in the Silicon
25 Valley to restaurant owners and workers, immigrants are filling
26 an intrinsic need in the labor force; and

27 WHEREAS, Agricultural workers have been performing very
28 important and difficult work to maintain America's food supply,
29 and have a role of ensuring that Americans have safe and secure
30 agricultural products to sell and consume; and

31 WHEREAS, Students should not be punished for their
32 immigration status but instead should be given recognition for
33 their sacrifice, hard work, and determination; and

34 WHEREAS, The United States can do a better job of attracting
35 and keeping the world's best and brightest. A comprehensive
36 immigration reform should also grant immigrants who have
37 received a Ph.D. or master's degree in science, technology,
38 engineering, or mathematics from an American university the
39 opportunity to invest in and contribute to this great nation. For the
40 future of our economy, it makes no sense to educate the world's

1 future innovators and entrepreneurs only to ultimately force them
2 to leave our country at the moment they are most able to contribute
3 to our economy; and

4 WHEREAS, Modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional
5 immigration system will uphold our nation’s basic values of
6 ~~fairness, fairness and~~ equality, as well as ~~opportunity~~ access to
7 *health care*, and

8 WHEREAS, A comprehensive, as well as compassionate,
9 approach to solve our broken immigration system should be one
10 that works for all communities and families in America; and

11 WHEREAS, A just immigration reform must ensure that it
12 reflects one of our basic values—that we all are created equal—thus
13 immigration reform must recognize each immigrant’s full
14 humanity; and

15 ~~WHEREAS, In order to enhance federal matching resources to~~
16 ~~cover all eligible residents in our state, the federal government~~
17 ~~should include participation of new Americans in programs derived~~
18 ~~from the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and~~
19 ~~should allow new Americans to participate in publicly funded~~
20 ~~programs to expedite their integration into our state; and~~

21 WHEREAS, A proposal must be comprised of the following
22 tenets that achieve all of the following: (1) ~~include a direct road~~
23 ~~map to full citizenship that is inalienable, affordable, and inclusive~~
24 ~~for the 11 million immigrants who are currently living in the~~
25 ~~shadows; (2) establish an earned citizenship process that requires~~
26 ~~immigrants to pay back taxes and learn English; (2) enhance~~
27 ~~security in our ports of entry to secure our nation; (3) reform of~~
28 immigration enforcement programs that separate families ~~and~~
29 ~~ensures to ensure~~ that family unification systems are strengthened;
30 ~~(3) (4) upgrade the current visa programs, including the creation~~
31 ~~of a guest worker program for agricultural workers, in order to~~
32 have a legal workforce and a system that better enforces labor
33 protections; and ~~(4) (5) uphold due process as well as the inherent~~
34 rights of all immigrants; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved, by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
36 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the President and
37 the Congress of the United States to take a humane and just
38 approach to solving our nation’s broken immigration system; and
39 be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
2 of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the
3 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to
4 the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
5 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
6 States, to the Governor of California, and to the author of this
7 resolution.

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